



Maritime OPINTEL Report

**(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS)
Report
21 July 2013 – 21 August 2013**

22 August 2013

Maritime Crime/Piracy

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1. (U) Scope Note

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides information on threats to, and criminal action against, merchant vessels worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

2. (U) Summary

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 16 August, an anchored container ship was boarded at the Chittagong Anchorage.

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 15 August, an anchored tanker experienced an attempted boarding at the Lagos Anchorage.

3. (U) BANGLADESH: On 15 August, a fishing trawler was hijacked, along with the kidnapping of 15 fishermen, along the Meghna River under Hatia upazila of Noakhali.

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 15 August, a product tanker was boarded in the Gulf of Guinea.

5. (U) BANGLADESH: On 14 August, two fishing trawlers were hijacked, along with the kidnapping of 21 fishermen, along the Meghna River.

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 12 August, an offshore support vessel was fired upon approximately 35nm off the Nigerian coast.

7. (U) BANGLADESH: On 10 August, an anchored container ship was boarded at the

Chittagong Anchorage.

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 August, an underway product tanker was boarded approximately 9nm north of Bintan Island.

3. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements and Advisories

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for August and September 2013. Merchant vessels that wish to apply for JMSDF escort operation should visit http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html, please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MILT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932 Fax: +81-3-5253-1643 Email: INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp (MSCHOA).

B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Korean Navy convoy schedule for August and September 2013. All merchant vessels wishing to join the convoy group must submit their application forms directly to the ROK naval warship carrying out the mission. The ROK MTG can be reached directly at (INMARSAT: 870-773-110-374), (Email: rokcheonghae@gmail.com) (MSCHOA).

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Chinese Navy convoy schedule for August and September 2013. For further information, please e-mail cnmrcc@msa.gov.cn, cnmrcc@mot.gov.cn, or call Tel: 86-10-652-92221 Fax: 86-10-652-92245 (MSCHOA).

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Indian Navy convoy escort schedule for August and September 2013. To register, email antipiracyescort@dgshipping.com or dgcommcentre@satyammail.net, or visit www.dgshipping.com. Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22- 22613636 (MSCHOA).

4. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the last 30 days. Designation of a high-threat area is based on an assessment of all source information relating to the existence of, or potential for, piracy and other crime, terrorism, civil unrest, or low-intensity conflict. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event double-counting is detected, or an incident is later learned to be different than initially reported, an explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one message prior to dropping the erroneous report.

A. (U) **NORTH AMERICA**: No current incidents to report.

B. (U) **CENTRAL AMERICA–CARIBBEAN**: No current incidents to report.

C. (U) **SOUTH AMERICA**: No current incidents to report.

D. (U) **ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA**: No current incidents to report.

E. (U) **NORTHERN EUROPE–BALTIC**: No current incidents to report.

F. (U) **MEDITERRANEAN–BLACK SEA**:

(U) **EGYPT**: On 31 July, the Liberia-flagged berthed container ship **MARY SCHULTE** was boarded in the vicinity of 31:10 N – 029:51 E, at Berth No. 49, Alexandria Port. When a crewmember noticed a robber inside the Bosun forward store, he immediately informed the duty officer. No robber was found upon checking the store, but a life raft in the store had been opened and damaged. (IMB, IMO)

G. (U) **WEST AFRICA**:

1. (U) **NIGERIA**: On 15 August, the anchored Marshall Islands-flagged tanker **BLUEGREEN TIGRE** experienced an attempted boarding in the vicinity of 06:19 N – 003:27 E, at the Lagos Anchorage. Approximately 8-10 robbers, in a speed boat, attempted to place a hook on the tanker's railing. They were spotted by the crew and the alarm was raised. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing crew alertness, the pirates' boat moved away. Other ships were informed on VHF radio. Local authorities were informed and a naval patrol arrived at the location and conducted a search. (IMB, IMO, OCL)

2. (U) **NIGERIA**: On 15 August, the Nigeria-flagged product tanker **NORTE** was boarded in the Gulf of Guinea. On 17 August, the vessel was reportedly chased by vessels from the Nigerian Navy; to include two Navy ships of destroyer-size, 6 gun boats, and patrol plane from the Nigerian Air Force. The Nigerian forces surrounded the tanker in the Niger Delta region. The pirates attempted to flee the tanker when night fell, but were intercepted. During the ensuing gun battle 12 pirates were killed and 4 were captured. No details on the fate of the crew were given. The tanker is presently anchored in Lagos. (Fleetmon.com, News.odin.tc)

3. (U) **NIGERIA**: On 12 August, a Nigeria-flagged offshore support vessel was fired upon approximately 35nm off the Nigerian coast. Two gunboats with approximately 7 - 8 pirates on board fired upon the vessel. A near-by patrol boat responded to the emergency calls. The patrol boat exchanged fire with the pirates, resulting in the pirate boats retreating north at high speed. (OCL)

4. (U) **NIGERIA**: On 12 August, the anchored Marshall Islands-flagged chemical tanker **SP ATLANTA** was hijacked at 06:19 N – 003:27 E, at the Lagos Anchorage. Approximately 11 pirates, armed with guns, boarded and hijacked the chemical tanker at anchor. They stole crew personal belongings and caused minor injuries to the crew members. On the 13 August, the vessel was released and safely arrived at the Lagos Anchorage. (IMB, IMO, reuters.com, gcaptain.com)

5. (U) **NIGERIA**: On 11 August, robbers in a small skiff attempted to board the anchored Liberia-flagged product tanker **FPMC 25** at 06:18 N – 003:26 E, at the Lagos Anchorage. Master raised the alarm and mustered the crew, while embarked armed guards fired warning shots, resulting in the skiff moving away. (IMB, OCL)

6. (U) **IVORY COAST**: On 31 July, robbers boarded the anchored Cayman Islands-flagged bulk

carrier ATHOS at 05:13 N – 004:03 W, at the Abidjan Anchorage. The robbers boarded the ship using a long pole with a hook. The crew spotted them and raised the alarm. On hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped in a wooden boat. All crew are safe and nothing was stolen. (IMB, IMO)

7. (U) NIGERIA: On 30 July, the underway Hong Kong-flagged chemical tanker HIGH JUPITER was fired upon at 03:31 N - 006:05 E, approximately 45nm south of Brass. A gunboat claiming to be a Nigerian navy boat called a chemical tanker on VHF and asked details of vessel, cargo, last and next ports. This information was passed to the gun boat. After approximately 15 minutes, the gun boat approached the vessel at high speed and demanded that the vessel be stopped and boarding permitted. The Master informed them that he would not be stopping due to the areas high risk for piracy attacks. The gun boat threatened them and followed the vessel for 20 minutes and then fired two shots in the air. The Master immediately raised the alarm over VHF and requested ships in the vicinity relay its message to port control, which was not responding to its calls. Upon hearing the VHF alarm, the gun boat moved away. (IMB, IMO)

8. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 July, the anchored Nigeria-flagged product tanker LOULOU was boarded at 04:16 N – 007:56 E, at the Eked Offshore Anchorage, approximately 40 nm southeast of Port Harcourt. Pirates reportedly boarded the vessel, destroyed the bridge laptop, and inflicted damage to the bridge via gun shots. Two suspected pirates remained in hiding aboard the ship, until their later discovery, when they jumped overboard. Exxon Terminal security staffs responded to the incident, but were unable to locate any of the suspects. (IMB, OCL)

H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN–EAST AFRICA:

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 16 August, the anchored Liberia-flagged container ship HENRIETTE SCHULTE was boarded at 22:10 N – 091:42 E, at the Chittagong Anchorage. Four robbers, armed with knives, boarded the anchored container ship. The Officer of the Watch spotted them and immediately raised the alarm. All crew mustered. Seeing crew alertness, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped with stolen ship stores. Local authorities were informed. (IMB)

2. (U) BANGLADESH: On 15 August, a fishing trawler was hijacked, along with the kidnapping of 15 fishermen along the Meghna River. A gang of pirates attacked three trawlers in the Talia Char area. When the fishermen tried to resist the bandits, they opened fire, injuring one man. The pirates looted valuables from the trawlers and kidnapped the 15 fishermen onboard. (dhakatribune.com, newstoday.com)

3. (U) BANGLADESH: On 14 August, two fishing trawlers were hijacked, along with the kidnapping of 21 fishermen, along the Meghna River. Local authorities managed to rescue 10 of the kidnapped fishermen soon after the incident. (dhakatribune.com, newstoday.com)

4. (U) BANGLADESH: On 10 August, the anchored Singapore-flagged container ship KOTA HARTA was boarded at 22:09 N – 091:47 E, at the Chittagong Anchorage. Three robbers boarded the ship from the poop deck, using a hook and rope. Upon discovering the robbers, the duty watchman immediately raised the alarm. Two of the robbers jumped overboard while the third robber grabbed the life-ring from the ship and threw it overboard before escaping in a small

wooden boat. (IMO)

5. (U) BANGLADESH: On 27 July, the anchored Denmark-flagged chemical tanker TORM LOIRE was boarded in the vicinity of 22:13 N – 091:46 E, at the Chittagong Anchorage. While awaiting berthing instructions, the duty crew on routine patrol noticed a robber lowering ropes into a waiting boat. The duty officer was informed, who then raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Upon the crew's approach to the stern, the robbers cut off the loose rope and escaped in the boat. Local authorities were notified. (IMB, IMO, OCL)

6. (U) EGYPT: On 27 July, the anchored Singapore-flagged container ship HONG KONG BRIDGE was boarded at 29:50 N – 032:34 E, at the Suez Anchorage. Upon boarding the vessel, the robbers were spotted by the crew, who then raised the alarm. After hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped empty handed. (IMB, IMO, OCL)

7. (U) INDIA: On 24 July, the anchored Singapore-flagged chemical tanker BUNGA LUCERNE was boarded at 22:48 N – 070:03 E, at the Kandla Anchorage. An able bodied seaman and a deck cadet, who were carrying out routine work on the forecastle of the anchored chemical tanker, noticed three small boats approaching. The able bodied seaman immediately informed the duty officer. The boats started distracting the ship's crew by asking them to buy their fish. The able bodied seaman and the cadet checked on the other side of the vessel and observed that two robbers from another boat were in the process of getting on board while another was already on board. The duty officer raised the alarm and sounded the ship's whistle, resulting in the robbers jumping overboard and escaping in their boat. Port Authorities and vessels in the vicinity were informed. (IMB, IMO)

I. (U) **PERSIAN GULF**: No current incidents to report.

J. (U) **SOUTHEAST ASIA**:

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 10 August, the anchored Isle of Man-flagged bulk carrier STAR MANX was boarded at 00:16 S – 117:36 E, at the Samarinda Anchorage. Three robbers in boiler suits boarded the anchored bulk carrier which was waiting to link up with a cargo barge. The robbers seized the third officer who was on routine rounds at the forecastle. They hit him and threatened him with a knife, while five other robbers boarded the ship, broke the hatch cover with pipes and crowbars, and began to steal ship's stores. When seeing duty crew approach the forecastle, the robbers disembarked the vessel and escaped in a speed boat with the stolen stores. Upon investigation, it was found that the robbers boarded the ship by breaking the hawse pipe security steel grill/cover bolt and nut lock. (IMB, IMO, OCL, Tradewinds)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 4 August, the anchored Marshall Islands-flagged oil/chemical tanker GARNET EXPRESS was boarded and robbed at an undisclosed port/anchorage. (OCL)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 August, the underway Thailand-flagged product tanker DANAI 6 was boarded at 01:23 N – 104:30 E, approximately 9nm north of Bintan Island. Six pirates, armed with knives and guns, boarded the vessel. The pirates fired at the glass panel of the door of the bridge, where they entered and took control of the ship and all 14 Thai crew. They tied up the crew in the mess room and stole navigational equipment and crew's cash and personal

belongings. The pirates left the ship after approximately 45 minutes. (IMO)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 August, the anchored Italy-flagged tanker MARE NOSTRUM was boarded at 01:06 N – 103:38 E, at the Nipah Anchorage. When a crewmember noticed a robber outside the accommodation area, he immediately retreated into the bridge and informed the duty officer who raised the alarm. After being detected by the crew, the robber escaped. During a search, the crew noticed that the robber had tried to enter the steering gear room, but it was locked from the inside. The robber escaped empty-handed. (IMB, IMO)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 30 July, the anchored Marshall Islands-flagged oil/chemical tanker GARNET EXPRESS was boarded and robbed at an undisclosed port/anchorage. (OCL)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 July, the anchored Panama-flagged LPG tanker REEFERENCE POINT was boarded at 01:06 N – 104:10 E, at the Tanjung Uban Anchorage. Duty AB on board the LPG tanker noticed approximately eight robbers, armed with knives, boarding the vessel from the poop deck. The Duty Officer was informed and raised the alarm. The crew remained inside the accommodation until local authorities arrived and boarded the vessel. A search was performed and determined that the robbers had abandoned the ship empty-handed. (IMB, IMO, OCL)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 27 July, the anchored Hong Kong-flagged chemical tanker GLOBAL PEACE was boarded at 07:05 S – 112:39E, at the Gresik Inner Anchorage. Unidentified persons were spotted at the forecandle paint store entrance. The alarm was raised and crew alerted. The robbers jumped overboard with stolen ship's stores and escaped in a small boat. (IMB, IMO)

8. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 25 July, the anchored Gibraltar-flagged container ship APL LOS ANGELES was boarded and robbed in Manila Bay. (OCL)

9. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 July, the underway Singapore-flagged tug was SURYA WIRA 2 was boarded at 01:18 N – 104:41 E, approximately 8nm northeast of Tanjung Berakit. About six pirates, in a speed boat, armed with knives, boarded a tug with barge in tow. They entered the crew cabins and took all crew hostage. The robbers stole crew personal belongings and the tug's properties before their escape. (IMB, IMO, OCL)

10. (U) INDONESIA: On 24 July, the underway Singapore-flagged tug SURYA WIRA 5 was boarded at 01:16 N – 104:37 E, approximately 3nm northeast of Tanjung Berakit. About seven pirates, in a speed boat, armed with knives, boarded the underway tug. They took all crew hostages, tied up their hands, stole their cash and personal belongings, and escaped. One crew member was injured during the altercation. (IMB, IMO, OCL)

11. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 21 July, the anchored Antigua and Barbuda-flagged container ship HELMUTH RAMBOW was boarded and robbed in Manila Bay. (OCL)

12. (U) VIETNAM: On 21 July, the berthed Singapore-flagged product tanker KIRANA TRITYA was boarded at the Nha Be Terminal. Five robbers in a small boat approached the berthed product tanker. Two robbers armed with knives managed to board the tanker using a

rope while the remaining robbers remained in their boat. The duty able bodied seaman, the on-deck watch, noticed the robbers and informed the duty officer who raised the alarm. Crew mustered and approached the robbers with wooden sticks. Upon seeing the crew alertness, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped empty handed. (IMB, IMO, OCL)

K. (U) **NORTH ASIA**: No current incidents to report.

L. (U) **PACIFIC-ANTARCTIC OCEAN**: No current incidents to report.

M. (U) **ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC NON-STATE ACTIVIST GROUPS**: No current incidents to report.

5. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources

(U) This appendix provides contact information for the author of the WTS as well as other entities that can be contacted with maritime crime reports. It also lists other resources where the WTS is posted and where piracy and maritime crime incident information can be found.

(U) Contact

(U) Originator of this WTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The 24-hour watch can be reached at +1 (301) 669-4053.

(U) Other Resources

(U) This Worldwide Threat to Shipping Report is posted at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Maritime Safety site: <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) also publishes a live piracy report based on reporting from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, listing all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days: <http://www.icc-ccs.org/>. The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm

6. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

(U) Terminology

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis. Please note that these terms relate to

observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities:

- **(U) Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- **(U) Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- **(U) Boarding** – Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.
- **(U) Firing Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- **(U) Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- **(U) Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- **(U) Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- **(U) Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained close proximity of an unknown vessel.

(U) Sourcing

(U) ONI derives information in this report from direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources.

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- BBC News (BBC)
- Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Denmark (BIMCO)
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- Fairplay (FP), London
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Informa Group (INFO), formerly LLP, Llp Limited, London
- Latitude38.com (LAT), website
- Lloyd's List (LL), daily, London
- Local media (LM)
- LSS-SAPU.com (LSS)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), US
- Maritime Security Council (MSC), US
- Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), Northwood
- MaRisk by Risk Intelligence (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk)

- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization Shipping Center (NSC), Brussels
- Oceanuslive.org (OCL), website
- Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) (analysis and comment)
- Operator (owner or operator of affected vessel)
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), US
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters.com (Reuters), website
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- Secure Anchorage Area West Africa (SAA)
- Seafarers' Assistance Program (SAP), Kenya
- Tradewinds (TW)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- U.S. Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) Bahrain
- U.S. Department of State (DOS)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

(U) ICOD: 21 August 2013